

and supporters of the Honor Flight program who make these trips possible.

Again, thank you to all Alaska veterans and volunteers for their dedication, commitment, and service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RENEE HENDERSON

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, today I wish to thank Renee Henderson for her 43 years of outstanding service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Kenai community, and Kenai Central High School on the occasion of her retirement.

Since her first day working for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District on August 30, 1971, Ms. Henderson has taught over 13,000 students. Ms. Henderson provided students with many life-changing experiences, including traveling to destinations across the world to perform.

Ms. Henderson has contributed to the Kenai Peninsula community through her hard work and dedication. She has touched thousands of lives by being a world-class musical professional. It is only appropriate through her contributions to the community that the school's auditorium was named the Renee C. Henderson Auditorium. She has shared her appreciation for the gift of music, through her concerts, tours, private lessons and choir program, to help countless young people nurture their musical gifts and enrich the world around them.

Along with Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Renee for her many years of educational excellence. We wish the absolute best to her as she begins this next stage in her life.●

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ALASKA

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I wish to recognize Special Olympics Alaska for their outstanding job in improving the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics was founded by the late Eunice Mary Kennedy Shriver in 1962. Mrs. Shriver saw how unfairly people with intellectual disabilities were treated and founded Camp Shriver, which eventually evolved to Special Olympics in 1968. Special Olympics Alaska also traces its beginnings back to 1968, when they held their first State games in 1969 in Fairbanks. Since then, the Special Olympics Alaska programs have grown to include over 500 athletes and 1,000 volunteers around the State.

Through sports, the athletes are able to see what they are capable of achieving and quickly gain confidence. I have seen firsthand how Special Olympics Alaska uses the power of sports to help athletes learn about friendly competition and sportsmanship, as well as provide them with an opportunity to make friendships that will last a lifetime.

In 2001, Anchorage hosted the Special Olympics World Winter Games. More

than 1,800 athletes representing 70 countries competed in 7 Olympic-type winter sports—making this the largest sporting event ever held in the history of Alaska. This year, Special Olympics Alaska will open its first Athlete Training Center and Campus in Anchorage on May 8. This facility will give the athletes a dedicated facility to practice and prepare for future games in which they will represent Alaska.

I would like to recognize Special Olympics Alaska and all the work they do to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. I wish the absolute best to the athletes, families and supporters as they transition into their new training center.●

REMEMBERING BUD PURDY

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I wish to honor a true Idaho original, a man who set the bar high for ranching and conservation in my State and established a world-class trout fishery.

Every so often, a generation produces remarkable characters—individuals who set their sights high and leave the bar higher for us. Bud Purdy of Picabo, ID, was one of those people. While he could not claim Idaho by birth, he more than proved to be an Idahoan through his experiences, work ethic, and inclinations. He began working on a family sheep ranch in Blaine County at Picabo, near Sun Valley, during summers in 1928. Not long after, a young Bud Purdy climbed nearby Hyndman Peak at over 12,000 feet. He graduated from college by the time he was 20, and despite an offer to go into banking, he chose to manage that family ranch. He was a hunting partner for writer Ernest Hemingway. There wasn't much Bud Purdy could not do. He was still flying his own airplane at the age of 94. He was—and is—considered an Idaho legend.

Bud made his mark in Picabo, Sun Valley, and Idaho. Near his ranch there is a creek that is world-renown—Silver Creek. It was along that creek that Bud joined a young Hemingway, actor Gary Cooper, and many others to fish and hunt birds. When Hemingway moved to Idaho in 1959, he had already been hunting with Bud for many years. The Purdy ranch consisted of 6,000 acres along Silver Creek. The waters of that creek are so crystal clear that you can see the trout. I have been one of those lucky enough to fish there. Bud and his family were visionaries. They donated a 3,500 acre easement to the Nature Conservancy that meant the land could never be subdivided, and the world-class fishery remains there today, just like it was when Bud arrived 86 years ago.

Bud felt all ranchers should have a strong conservation ethic, and he was one of the first to employ rest-rotation grazing to protect the land and water. Bud got that message out as a founder of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. He was recently inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame, joining the

likes of Hemingway, poet Ezra Pound, skier Picabo Street, former U.S. Senator William Borah, and agri-businessman J.R. Simplot.

It was important to Bud to pass along the message to care about the land, and he has succeeded admirably. As he told writer Steven Stuebner in an article for the Rangeland Commission about the ranching profession:

Once you get started in it, you're hooked. Every morning, you get up and do something different. You turn out on the range and ride a horse every day. Even now, I go out and make sure the water is OK, check the fences and make sure the gates are closed. It's just a constant going out there and doing it. I was never a cowboy, but I've ridden a million miles.

That description of the ranch life in Central Idaho sounds a long way from Capitol Hill, but the hard work ethic and the dedication to principle is what made Bud Purdy an Idaho, and American, hero. His life of service is something we can all aspire to, or as Idaho Governor Butch Otter said, "someone whose life was a lesson in cowboy ethics, common sense, stewardship and the value of hard work and perseverance".●

REMEMBERING RICKY DEL FIORENTINO

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sheriff's Deputy Ricky Del Fiorentino, an exceptional law enforcement officer, a devoted and loyal friend, and most of all a dedicated family man, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on March 19, 2014.

Ricky Del Fiorentino was born and raised in Napa, CA, where he excelled in both football and wrestling at Napa High School. His high school football coach called him the best lineman he had ever trained. Ricky also placed second in the heavyweight division of the State wrestling championship in 1982 and later earned a scholarship to wrestle at the University of Oklahoma. In 1998, he was inducted into the Napa High Athletic Hall of Fame.

After graduating from the Napa Valley Police Academy, Ricky joined the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. His distinguished 26-year law enforcement career in Mendocino County included 10 years with the Fort Bragg Police before he returned to the sheriff's department in 2000. Residents of the Mendocino coast remember Deputy Del Fiorentino as a calm, towering presence and a guardian of the community. At a candlelight vigil in his honor, many community members described him as gentle, helpful, trusting, loving, and caring, relating personal interactions that had stayed with them for years.

Deputy Del Fiorentino was a respected and experienced leader, passionate about his work and never hesitant to help someone in need. In 1992, he dove into the Noyo River to rescue a young man who had jumped off the